

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 19, 2005. Claims 14-25 and 27-30 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1-13 and 26 are now pending.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 4-6 and 13.

Claim 1 stands rejected under Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Okada. This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires that only the region of the semiconductor chip that corresponds to the portion where the groove is formed is flexible. E.g., see Figs. 1C, 2B, 6B, 7, 8B, etc. of the instant specification. Okada fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 1. In contrast with claim 1, Okada teaches that the entire substrate 910 is flexible – which is the opposite of what claim 1 requires (e.g., col. 27, line 13). Claims 8-10 define over Okada in a similar manner.

Claim 26 also stands rejected under Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Okada. This Section 102(b) rejection is incorrect for at least the following reasons. Note that claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form, so that no new issue has been raised with respect to this claim.

Claim 26 requires that “no part of the groove extends all the way through the silicon substrate.” For example, see Figs. 1C, 2B, 6B, etc. of the instant application. Okada fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 26. Instead, Okada teaches directly away from this since all of holes 961-964 in Okada extend all the way through the substrate at most locations so that much of the alleged grooves extend all the way through the alleged substrate (e.g., see Figs. 41-42 and col. 27, line 34). Claim 26 defines over the cited art in this respect.

In the Office Action dated December 19, 2005, it appears as if the Examiner on page 8 attempts to justify the Section 102(b) rejection of claim 26 by arguing that the “groove” in claim

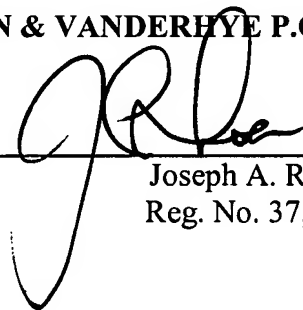
26 reads on only the portion under element 912 in Fig. 41 (and not on openings 961-964) of Okada. The Office Action's position in this respect lacks merit. A "groove" is a "*long narrow furrow or channel.*" See *The American Heritage Dictionary*, Third Edition, Office Edition (1994). This common well known and ordinary definition of "groove" clearly does not read on only the portion under element 912 in Fig. 41 of Okada, because this small area in Okada is not long and narrow. Thus, the Office Action's attempt to exclude areas 961-964 from the alleged "groove" in Okada is incorrect. The Section 102(b) rejection of claim 26 should be withdrawn for at least this reason.

If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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